



Recommendations for approval by
the 3rd FIDE COUNCIL 2026
(Samarkand, Uzbekistan, September 21st, 2026)

The present report presents the ARB Commission's activity, the list of FIDE Arbiters' Training Seminars, norms achieved and title and accreditation recommendations for approval by the FIDE Council.

The period covered is between August 11th, 2026 and September 09th, 2026. It was prepared in collaboration with Nebojsa BARALIC, Secretary of the Commission.

Note: other activities of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission are regularly reported on <https://arbiters.fide.com>

1) ARB ACTIVITIES IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN TWO FIDE COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the period between August 11th, 2026 and September 09th, 2026 in FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) we worked on the following topics:

- A) Preparation for 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad and 3rd FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities
- B) Education of Arbiters
- C) Arbiters' Manual 2026
- D) Call of Interest for the ARB Lecturer Training Programme (LTP)

A) Preparation for 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad and 3rd FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities

FIDE ARB organized three preparatory sessions for all arbiters appointed to the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad and the 3rd FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities.

During the first session, the objectives were to:

- Explain the structure and scale of both Olympiad events, including teams, players, officials, and the organization of the playing halls.
- Review the most important regulations, including the Swiss system, time controls, default time, draw rules, match points, tie-break systems, and pairing principles.
- Cover Fair Play regulations, access control procedures, electronic device policies, player and captain conduct, and common case studies that arbiters may encounter.
- Describe the arbiter structure (Chief Arbiter, Deputy Chief Arbiters, Sector Arbiters, Match Arbiters, TAP Team members) and their respective responsibilities.

- Emphasize the importance of preparation, professionalism, teamwork, punctuality, and sound decision-making by arbiters.

During the first session, the focus was on:

- Explaining how to prepare a match, including the setup of boards, pieces, clocks, scoresheets, and match protocols.
- Detailing arbiter duties during play, such as observing games, checking clocks and scoresheets, handling draw claims, supervising captains, and ensuring that games are never left unattended.
- Covering cooperation with the Fair Play and medical teams, access card control procedures (green and blue cards), and the reporting of suspicious behaviour.
- Presenting procedures for concluding games and matches, verifying results, handling scoresheets, updating results, and completing match protocols.
- Defining the responsibilities of Match Arbiters and Sector Arbiters regarding document verification, result submission, and operational management.

The aim of the third session was to:

- Present the cooperation between the TAP Team and arbiters, as well as between the Fair Play Team and arbiters.
- Conduct a question-and-answer session with the arbiters.
- Discuss practical case studies.

B) Education of arbiters

As mentioned in the previous report, the Working Group has continued its efforts to improve the education system for arbiters. The group's initial proposals were presented to the Chair and Secretary of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission. Subsequently, an online meeting was organized with all lecturers, during which the proposed changes were presented and discussed.

One of the expected outcomes of this initiative is a clearer distinction between the topics covered in FA and IA seminars. While certain subjects, such as tie-break systems, may continue to be included in both seminars, their scope and depth should differ according to the target audience. This approach will help avoid unnecessary repetition and provide a more structured progression between the two levels of education.

Another proposed improvement concerns the examination system. The Working Group recommends revising the use of the open-book format for the FA Tournament Regulations Seminar and the IA Seminar. While participants may continue to have access to reference materials for assessments related to tournament regulations, examinations designed to evaluate knowledge of the Laws of Chess should be conducted without external assistance. This would ensure a more accurate assessment of candidates' understanding of the rules.

C) Arbiters' Manual 2026

The Arbiter Manual has reached the final stage of preparation. Final corrections have been completed, and the final version has been submitted to FIDE for printing so that it will be available during the Olympiad in Samarkand.

We highly appreciate the efforts of the entire team that contributed to this project. Although the authors did not always share the same views on certain topics, they worked together constructively and succeeded in finding solutions to most of the questions raised by arbiters and players during the last two-year period.

D) Call of interest for ARB Lecturer Training Programme (LTP)

We are happy to announce, that last FIDE Council approved 2 new Lecturers. Both took part in last LTP started in 2024 and now join our team of Lecturers. We want to support others with good skills to share their knowledge and experience with arbiters. For this reason FIDE Arbiters' Commission launched a new Call of Interest for the Lecturer Training Programme (LTP). The programme is opened to International Arbiters of categories A and B who combine strong tournament experience with proven pedagogical and teaching skills. Candidates are invited to submit their applications by 10 September 2026, including their arbiter résumé, teaching experience, motivation, and a practical contribution consisting of examination questions.

2) FIDE ARBITERS SEMINARS

In the period from August 11th, 2026 and September 09th, 2026 nine (9) FIDE ARBITERS' SEMINARS were organized in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. Six (6) of them and one (1) from the previous period (Almaty - KAZ) reports and results have been published on the FIDE ARB website:

1. **Singapore, ASEAN CHESS CONFEDERATION, 10 – 14 August 2026**
6 participants from 4 Federations,
2. **Gladenbach, GERMANY, 13 – 16 August 2026**
19 participants from 1 Federation,
3. **Nouakchott, MAURITANIA, 10 – 12 April 2026**
17 participants from 1 Federation,
4. **231st Internet Based Seminar, PANAMA, 20 – 23 August 2026**
18 participants from 6 Federations,
5. **234th Internet Based Seminar, CONFEDERATION OF CHESS FOR AMERICA, 28 – 31 August 2026**
20 participants from 15 Federations,
6. **235th Internet Based Seminar, FRANCE, 30 August – 6 September 2026**
Waiting for the Report,
7. **226th Internet Based Seminar, CONFEDERATION OF CHESS FOR AMERICA, 28 – 31 May 2026**
22 participants from 16 Federations,
8. **232nd Internet Based Seminar, WOM, 4 – 6 September 2026**
Waiting for the Report,
9. **236th Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 4 – 6 September 2026**
Waiting for the Report.

A few statistics (based on received reports to date):

113 arbiters from 50 Federations took part in 7 seminars.

107 arbiters took part in the exam.

53 arbiters passed the exam and achieved FA Norm (*see Appendix A for the full list*).

3) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS

In the period from August 11th, 2026 and September 09th, 2026 one (1) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINAR was organized by the ARB and WOM Commission in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. For the seminar the report and results have been published on the FIDE ARB website.

1. **28th IA Certification Seminar, ARB-WOM, 15 - 23 August 2026**
24 participants from 23 Federations.

A few statistics (based on received reports to date):

24 arbiters from 27 Federations took part in 1 seminar.

24 arbiters took part in the exam.

20 arbiters passed the exam and achieved IA Norm (*see Appendix B for the full list*).

4) APPLICATIONS TO BE VALIDATED BY THE COUNCIL

Incomplete applications at the time of reporting were skipped for now and postponed to the next report for recommendations to the FIDE Council.

That means that only *Approved* and *Rejected* applications will be listed as recommendations below.

a) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IA AND FA TITLE APPLICATIONS

For the 3rd FIDE Council 2026, the Arbiters' Commission received 79 applications for Arbiters Titles. 16 IA, and 63 FA title applications were submitted for consideration by the Commission. 63 applications are approved, 8 rejected, and 8 postponed to the next Council.

Appendix C contains the recommendations of the Arbiters' Commission for the IA and FA title applications that have been submitted for approval by the 3rd FIDE Council 2026.

b) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARBITERS' CLASSIFICATION UPGRADES

For the 3rd FIDE Council 2026, the Arbiters' Commission received 13 applications for Arbiters' classification upgrades:

- 2 category B
- 11 category C

12 applications are approved, and 1 is rejected.

Appendix D contains the recommendations of the Arbiters' Commission for the upgrades of the Arbiters' classification that have been submitted for approval by the 3rd FIDE Council 2026.

c) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE FIDE LECTURERS LIST

There are no new proposals for the FIDE Lecturers.

Appendix D contains the updated list of FIDE Lecturers for Arbiters submitted for approval by the 2nd FIDE Council 2026 (added Gerhard Bertagnoli and Tania Karali).

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CHAIRMAN
FIDE ARBITERS' COMMISSION